

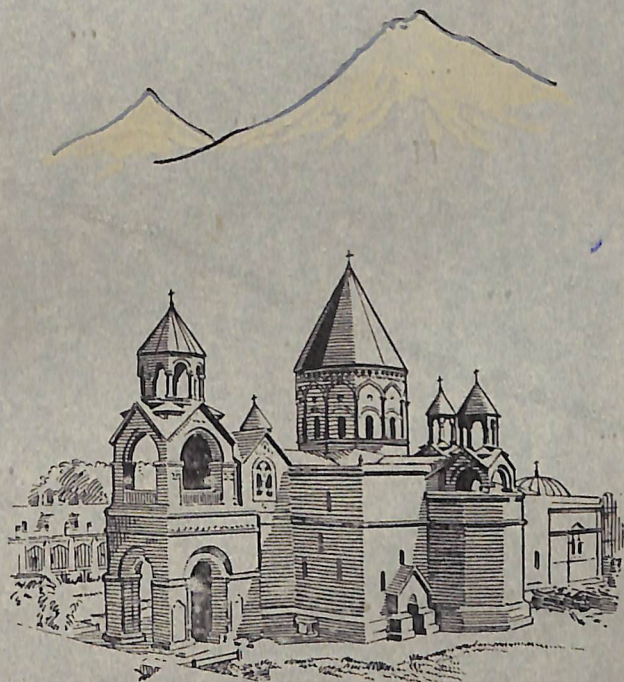
# ARARAT.

A SEARCHLIGHT ON ARMENIA.

*Vol. II. No. 24. London : JUNE, 1915.*

*Price 6d.*

*Annual Subscription 6 Shillings.*



All communications affecting this periodical should be addressed to the Editor, "Ararat," The Armenian United Association of London, 44, Queen's Road, Bayswater, London, W.

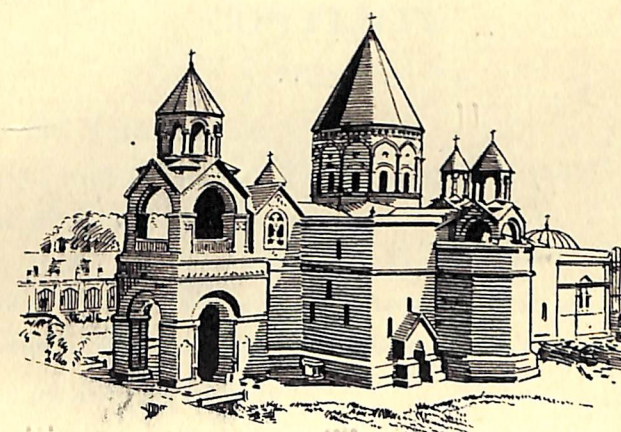
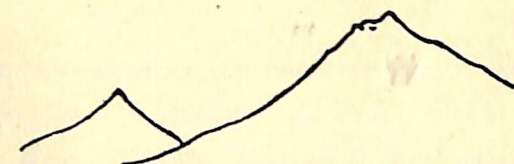


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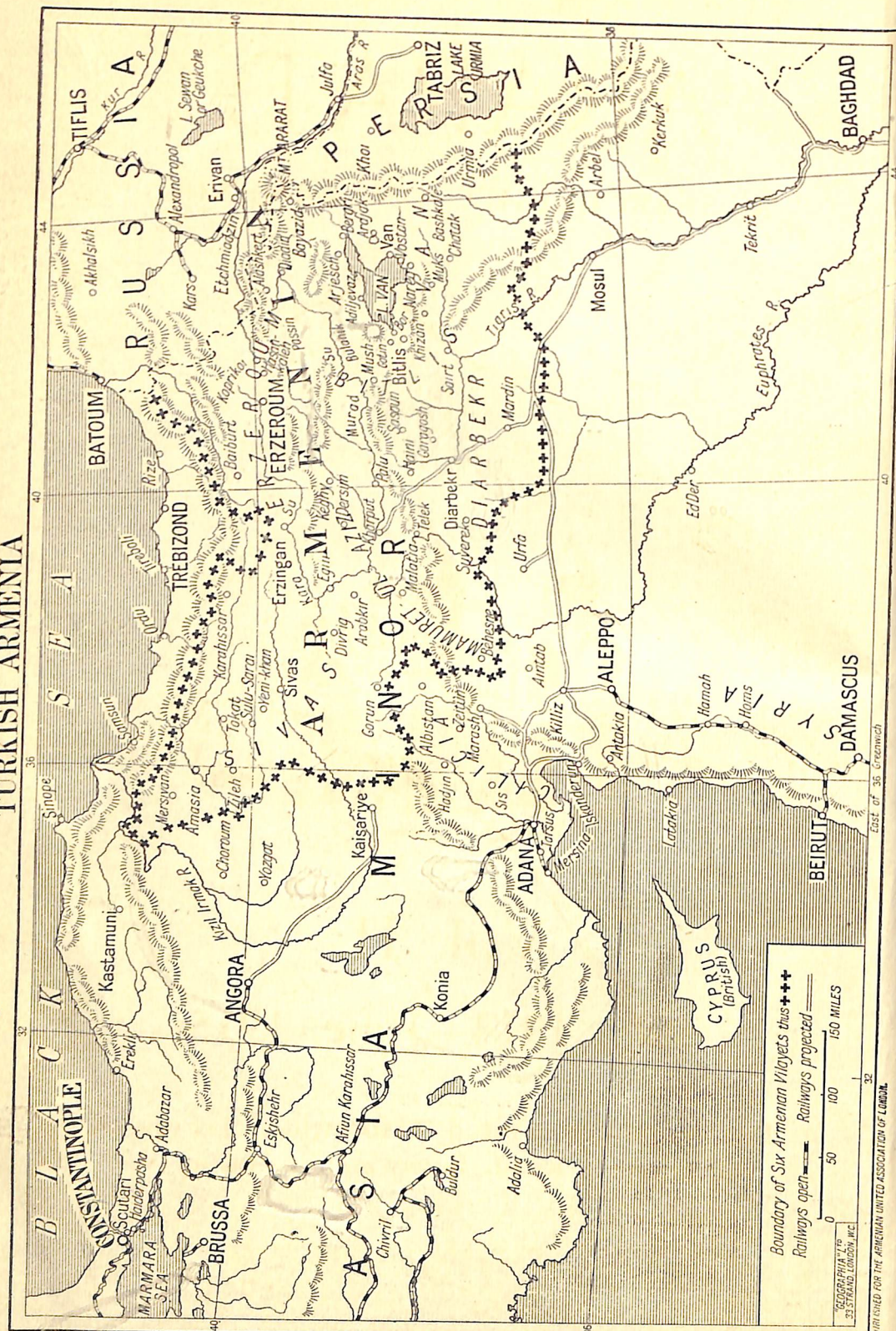
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TURKISH ARMENIA





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## Current Notes.

The great war in Europe continues to present no very definite features of victory or defeat. On the Western front the French are making determined efforts to reach Lens; on the Eastern front the Russian forces are making a masterly retreat after evacuating Przemyśl, Lemberg and the rest of Galicia, which they had conquered with so great an effort, in order that their equipment and munitions might be brought up to a standard commensurate with their needs. In the Dardanelles there is heavy fighting going on, and we are not permitted to know more than the fact that the Allies are making slow progress. After a sharp offensive by the Russian army into Turkish Armenia during April and May, the military operations on the Trans-Caucasian frontier also seem for the moment to have come to a standstill. While we write, the Russo-Armenian forces have cleared of Turks and Kurds the entire district of Van, and the *cazas* of Akhlat, Boulanik, and Melazgerd of the district of Bitlis. The latest *communiqués* from the Headquarters Staff of the Caucasus tend to show that the Russians are now crossing the hills from Boulanik to the plain of Mush with their right wing, and westwards to Bitlis with their left. The next battle for the capture of Bitlis will in all probability be fought on the slopes of the Nimrud and Kerkur mountains, a little to the north of Bitlis. Once that town is captured, all the table-land of Mush will lie open before the invading forces right up to the foot of the Anti-Taurus range.

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On the Turko-Persian frontiers the Russians are fighting in a difficult and mountainous country, the real Kurdistan. After disposing of Khalil Bey's forces at Khoi and Diliman, the Russians struck out for Urumiah, captured Julamerik, the home of the Nestorians, and are now fighting in Guiavor and the mountains of Khizan, south-east of Bitlis. The rapid advance of Russian forces into these nests of traditional Kurdish brigandage and Turkish misrule has struck terror among these gentry, who either surrender *en masse* or fly before the advancing tide after their final effort at plunder and massacre of Christians who lie across their path. Those who are thus disappearing, after burning their homes as they did at Van, are doing so with self-conscious guilt on their minds and the knowledge that they will be called upon to give an account of their misdeeds. On the other hand, there are some Kurdish chiefs who have been good neighbours to the Armenians and have defended them during the last few months of their trial. These have refused to leave their homes on the arrival of the Russo-Armenian forces, and they are being treated with every consideration and care by the Armenian population, who thus show their gratitude for the timely aid they received.

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News coming through Sofia is to the effect that about 500 Armenians who were exiled from Constantinople, have been imprisoned at Konia. Zohrab and Vartkis, two deputies of the Chamber, have also been deported. About 400 Armenian women and girls from the Zeitoun region have been conveyed to Angora, where they are subjected to gross indignities. In Marash and the neighbourhood massacres have been rife. Stout resistance is being shown by the Zeitounlis to the Turkish forces attacking them. The women have joined the men, arming themselves with daggers, pick-axes and scythes, and they have hurled over the rocks Turkish soldiers attempting to advance into their strongholds. Heavy losses have been inflicted on the Turks, and their convoys captured. Talaat Bey, the Minister of the Interior, is reported to have declared to a diplomat of a neutral State that the situation he will create for the Armenians will be such that they will not be able to think of autonomy for the next fifty years.

Van, the ancient capital of Armenia, since its occupation by the Russo-Armenian forces, has not been long in giving evidence of its vitality. Its weekly paper, *Ashkhadank*, promptly saw the light again, and described in its first resuscitated issue the banquet given in honour of the Russian General N. The toast of the Czar was proposed by the Bishop, and the General, in responding, alluded to the previous occasions when political circumstances prevented Russia from delivering the Armenians from the Turkish yoke. "Now," he said, "the combination brought about by the war had fundamentally changed the aspect of the question. England and France are working hand in hand with us, and we can look forward to the Armenians being freed from the Turkish yoke." Among other speeches made was one by Aram, the leader during the siege, who said: "When a month ago we raised the banner of rebellion, we did not expect the Russians to come to our rescue. Our position was precarious; we had either to surrender and be butchered, or fight to the end and go down like the *Titanic*, with the solemn strains of the band playing. You came to the rescue unexpectedly, and half our success is due to you." An Armenian girl presented flowers to the General and eulogised Russian women; and in reply the General proposed a toast to the honour of Armenian women, who bore heroes like the defenders of Van. The normal life of the town is beginning again; refugees from the neighbourhood are returning to their homes; an administration is being organised locally, and Aram has been appointed Governor for Van and the neighbourhood.

The Turkish desire to wreak vengeance on helpless Armenians on any pretext whatever is not very pleasant reading. We fear the more they are pushed into a corner the greater will be the toll exacted from our countrymen. A Constantinople correspondent of the *Frankfurter Zeitung* telegraphed to his paper on the 17th instant that twenty Armenian leaders were hanged in front of the Ministry of War for the reason that they had been plotting for the creation of an Armenian Kingdom. We doubt if a single Armenian exists at the present moment with his thoughts fixed on a German or any other princeling to rule over him. But the excuse is good enough to bring to the gallows a population in the larger centres who cannot defend themselves. Then again we read in *The Times* of a later date that "the persecution of Armenians continues. An Armenian was sentenced to death at Adrianople for expressing the belief that the Bulgarians would soon arrive. Fifty Armenians were recently hanged at Constantinople and five were shot." It is at present impossible to say who were the victims. The Turks have in safe keeping ex-Ministers, members of the Turkish Chamber, well-known lawyers, writers and journalists arrested last April. How many of these will emerge safe and sound from their dungeons at the close of the war?

We regret to announce the death of Nerses Kharakhanian, the Bishop of the diocese of Mush. Born in Mush some seventy years ago, and educated at the Monastery of Surp Karapet, he devoted nearly his whole life to his native town. As vicar of Mush he was involved in the political troubles of 1890-95, when he defied the authorities and championed his suffering flock. In 1895 he was recalled to Constantinople and exiled by the Turkish authorities to Jerusalem in company with the late Catholicos Ismirlian, then Patriarch at Constantinople. They were amnestied in 1908, at the proclamation of the Turkish Constitution, and were received by the Armenians at the Turkish capital, after their twelve years of exile, with an unparalleled ovation. Kharakhanian then returned to his beloved Mush and assumed the Bishopric, devoting during the past six years all his energies and his talent towards the educational and economic uplift of his flock, about 150 Armenian villages within his jurisdiction being enriched during that period by the establishment of primary schools. A good Armenian scholar, he gave his life entirely to his people—a long life of storm and stress, which probably was cut short through the strain of recent awful persecutions. With a prophetic sagacity he was wont to say that Armenia was on the eve of political freedom, but he has not lived to see the fulfilment of his cherished hopes.



It is with deep regret that we chronicle the death of Captain Count Peter Benckendorff, son of the Russian Ambassador to Great Britain. He was killed on June 7th during a reconnaissance near Shavli. This gallant officer and keen sportsman had only recently recovered from the effects of a severe wound received at the outset of the campaign in East Prussia, and his loss is much deplored at Petrograd. On the news being known in London, the President of the Armenian United Association at once sent to Count Benckendorff the following letter :—

“The General Council of the Armenian United Association of London consider it their duty, on behalf of the Armenian colony of London and of its members scattered in distant colonies, to send you and to the members of your illustrious family, the expression of their respectful and heartfelt condolences upon the cruel loss that you have suffered in the person of your son, Capt. Peter Benckendorff, who has gloriously fallen in fighting for the cause of liberty, a cause which is equally dear to the Armenian people, who are brethren-in-arms with the Russians.

“We ask you to accept the assurance of our respectful sympathy.”

The following reply, dated June 16th, was received to the above communication :—

“I am desired by Count de Benckendorff to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant and to request you to accept for yourself as the President and to convey to the General Council of the Armenian United Association his own and his family's sincere thanks for the kindly sympathy shown on the occasion of the untimely demise of his son.”

Archbishop Utudjian also sent, on behalf of himself and the Manchester Armenian colony, the following telegram :—

“Beg to offer Your Excellency my and the Armenian colony's deepest and sincere sympathy for the sad death of your beloved son Count Peter, gloriously fallen on the field of honour.”

To the above, Count Benckendorff sent the following reply :—

“Pray accept yourself and convey Armenian colony sincere thanks for sympathy.”

We hear that an article on Armenia, entitled “Dawn in the Near East,” by Miss Emily J. Robinson, illustrated by portraits and views, is to appear in the August number of “Khaki.” The magazine, which is published at Imperial House, Kingsway, price 6d., may be ordered through any bookseller.

As we go to press news reaches us of the arrival of Boghos Nubar Pasha in London. We chronicled last month the fact of his being the head of the Delegation appointed by His Holiness the Catholicos to watch over National interests bound up with the present war. A sojourn of a month in Paris has, no doubt, led to a useful interchange of views between him and the competent French authorities, and we trust his visit to London will also be attended with satisfactory results.

## Russia and Armenia.

### The Orange Book.

(Continued from page 416.)

#### IV.

Document No. 97 in the Orange Book embodies M. Neratoff's telegram to M. de Giers, Ambassador at Constantinople, and is dated October 26th. He states therein that the German Ambassador is seeking to defend the Turkish proposals with regard to the Armenian Question, and that he has replied to the effect that it would be quite impossible to withdraw from demanding guarantees ; but that he would consider any other formula which, while ensuring such a guarantee, would at the same time satisfy the *amour-propre* of the Turks.

Document No. 98 is a telegram from M. de Giers addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and is dated October 26th. In this the Ambassador states that Halim Pasha, the Grand Vizier, has delivered to him a new memorandum, wherein is stated that, in the event of the appointment of European Advisers instead of Inspectors-General, authority would rest with such Advisers. This memorandum is accompanied by the Turkish scheme and by another annexe containing the Ambassador's amendments, both of which M. de Giers forwards to the Foreign Minister.

In document No. 99 we find the Turkish scheme, which is detailed as follows :—

I. To every Inspector-General will be attached a European Adviser as a technical expert, and for a term of service which will extend to ten years.

II. The Adviser will co-operate with the Inspector-General in matters of inspection and general reforms, which fall within the jurisdiction of the latter. The Adviser will have under his instructions various Inspectors, who will be attached to the administrative section of the Inspector-General. The Adviser will preside over the work of inspection and the Committee of Reforms, which will consist of various Inspectors.



III. The Adviser will scrutinise the communications forwarded by the various Inspectors and will transmit them to the Inspector-General immediately on receipt, or after necessary inquiry into their contents before the Committee of Control. He will also add his own comments with regard to such communications.

IV. The Inspector-General will carry out the decisions contained in the communications of this Committee and those of the Inspectors transmitted to him by the Adviser, so long as those functions fall within his jurisdiction. In regard to problems outside his jurisdiction, he would refer them to the Ministry concerned.

V. In the event of any differences arising between the Inspector-General and the Adviser, the dispute will be submitted to the Sublime Porte, and the Council of Ministers will inquire into the matter and on their decision will rest the solution of the differences.

Document No. 100 contains amendments proposed and comments made by the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople on the above Turkish scheme, which he thus summarises :

(i) The Sublime Porte asks the Powers to recommend to it two Advisers to assist the two Inspectors-General appointed to the two sectors of Eastern Anatolia. The Sublime Porte intends to make contracts with such Advisers, and would again apply to the Powers in the event of the contracts losing their strength within ten years. (ii) The Sublime Porte recognises the rights to be exercised by the Inspectors-General and their Advisers in appointing or dismissing all officials or judges within their jurisdictions. (iii) The Sublime Porte consents to draw up instructions for the Inspectors-General in agreement with the Ambassadors of the Powers. (iv) The Inspectors-General are to exercise their authority in agreement with the Advisers. Any action taken by the Inspectors-General without such full agreement would be ineffective. In the event of differences arising between the Inspectors-General and the Advisers, the Sublime Porte would decide such disputes in agreement with the Ambassadors. (v) In each of the two sectors there will be constituted an elected assembly, half the members of which will consist of Moslems and the other half of Christians. (vi) This principle of equality will be exercised in the distribution of all offices in both sectors.

Document No. 101 embodies a telegram from M. Neratoff to M. de Giers, and is dated October 28th. He therein expresses his opinion about the scheme, and says that the differences between the proposed Inspectors-General and the European Advisers may be frequent, and the consequence of this would be that the Sublime Porte would take to postponing the decision of disputes, and thus reduce to nought the guarantees which have been acquired with such immense efforts, and discredit the position of the Powers, and especially of

Russia, in the eyes of the Armenians. M. Neratoff then goes on to say that in his opinion it would be advisable rather to entrust the Inspectors-General with the right of general inspection and with power to protest against the decisions of the Advisers, who must be looked upon as the instruments of the executive power. Such decisions of the Advisers, against which protests have been lodged by the Inspectors-General, would be submitted to the Embassies and the Sublime Porte for arriving at an agreement ; and after a certain time—say, after a fortnight—if no agreement had been reached, the decisions would obtain the force of law.

Document No. 102 is a telegram dated November 3rd-16th, 1913, and is addressed to M. Sazonoff by M. de Giers, informing him that the Grand Vizier had consented to the proposed amendments affecting the powers of the Advisers being introduced in the scheme of reforms.

Document No. 103 is a telegram dated 3rd-16th November, 1913, from the Russian Ambassador at Berlin to M. Sazonoff, informing him that it is impossible that Germany should like to appear at Constantinople as on the side of Russia in regard to the connection of Armenian reforms with the proposed increase of import duties ; the reason for this is stated to be that when Zimmermann (the Under Secretary of the German Foreign Office) reminded Djavid Bey of this connection, the latter is said to have answered that Germany had already given her consent to the increase of the duties, and that the Cabinet of Berlin could lay down no new conditions.

Document No. 104 contains M. Sazonoff's telegram to M. de Giers, of date November 5th, 1913, wherein he states that the final concessions had already been made to the Sublime Porte in order to make the Russian scheme acceptable, that it was difficult to make any further concessions, and that we must insist on the proposals being accepted as they now stand.

Document No. 105 contains another telegram from M. Sazonoff to the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, in which he says :—

“ I have received the following declaration from Turkhan Pasha, the Turkish Ambassador at St. Petersburg, to the effect that the Ottoman Empire, anxious to introduce reforms in Asia Minor, has applied to various Powers asking them to supply a certain number of experts to carry out this work ; but it has received a refusal which is founded on the argument that the Powers must negotiate with each other as to the bases on which reforms ought to be carried out. The Sublime Porte points out that Inspectors-General not appointed by itself, but forced upon it by the Powers, will never be allowed to acquire the requisite authority for fulfilling their duties. It accordingly asks the Powers to abstain from troubling it by urging the invitation of the necessary experts from second-rate States.



"My reply to the Ambassador was that if we insist upon a certain scheme of reforms for the Armenian vilayets, we base our action upon a conviction of an opposite character, that is, that officials appointed exclusively by the Sublime Porte cannot win over public confidence. At the same time I repeated to him that we desire neither any extension of our territory, nor any diminution of the Sultan's prestige; that we had proved our conciliatory spirit by making concessions on all points which might be said to offend the susceptibilities of the Sultan; and that we had already reached the limit of the concessions that we could possibly make, and that no more could be done.

"I called the attention of the Ambassador to the common-sense displayed by the Armenians, and stated that we could not repudiate what we considered as the minimum of the guarantees that were necessary.

"Please repeat to the Grand Vizier, when you explain matters to him, that the statements I have made to the Ambassador make it clear that, in case of any delay in complying with our demands—demands which emanate from our good-will and friendly attitude towards Turkey—the Sublime Porte will create a situation which would be fraught with serious complications. If the Armenians lose faith in the expected improvement of their conditions, they may resort to extremities; and we have repeatedly given the warning that in such a contingency we would not remain indifferent."

Document No. 106 contains a despatch from M. de Giers to M. Sazonoff, dated Nov. 15th, stating that the Grand Vizier had introduced fundamental alterations in the scheme, and that he himself was redrafting it, though preserving in his draft the essential parts. This new draft, which consisted of 14 Articles, he was forwarding with his despatch to M. Sazonoff.

Document No. 107 is a further despatch from M. de Giers to M. Sazonoff, dated November 20th, 1913, wherein the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople informs the Foreign Minister that the relations between the Armenian Patriarchate and the Turkish Government had become greatly strained from the time the mission of Nubar Pasha appeared on the scene in Europe, and in connection with the approaching elections for the Turkish Chamber. Basing his argument on the assumption that there are two millions of Armenians in Turkey, the Patriarch demanded twenty Armenian Deputies for the Chamber on the principle of proportional representation, and that these twenty Deputies should be elected by the Armenian vote. The Sublime Porte regarded this demand of the Patriarch as opposed to the letter of the Constitutional Law, and returned the latter's *Takrir* with the intimation that the Turkish Parliament did not represent distinct groups or nationalities, but the entire Ottoman nation, and that the Patriarch had no right whatever to interfere in such matters. The Patriarchate replied to this communication to the effect that from

old times the Patriarch had been considered the intermediary between the Armenian nation and the Turkish Government, and that the Armenian demands were in no way unconstitutional. The Sublime Porte, which wishes to procrastinate, has formed a Committee to deal with the matter, one member of which is Haladjian, an Armenian ex-Minister and a member of the *Ittihad* party (Committee of Union and Progress.—Ed. *Ararat*.).

(To be continued.)

## The Situation in Armenia.

### Massacres and a War of Self-Preservation.

In answer to a telegram of congratulations addressed by the Armenian Archbishop of Tiflis to the Russian General Commanding the forces which lately captured Van, General Okanovsky, in thanking the Archbishop, informed him further that his brave army, consisting of Russian Regulars and Armenian Volunteers, had inflicted a crushing blow on the Turk, the historical enemy of humanity and of Christianity, and had relieved the city of Van, the ancient capital of the Armenian Kingdom.

Supplementary details which have reached us in the last two weeks, besides exciting our admiration with thrilling accounts of the achievements of the Armenians of Van and Mush, tell us also of horrible massacres. Excisions of the Russian Censor, however, and other considerations of a national character, make a connected and complete account of the situation in Armenia impossible at the present moment. The following may be taken as an attempt to describe the existing condition of things, supported in the main by intelligence received direct from the Press in the Caucasus:

*Conditions in the City and Vilayet of Van.*—With the exception of an insignificant encounter between Armenian peasants and Turkish gendarmes at Pelu, a village near Vostan, on the lake, and a few murders, the relations between Armenians and the authorities seemed to be friendly until about the middle of March. Then came a change, and Armenian soldiers serving in the Turkish army in Van, Bitlis and Erzeroum gradually began to be disarmed and removed to unknown destinations. This caused consternation among the people, and the number of Armenian deserters from the army greatly increased. These deserters fled to the mountains, there to defend themselves in case of any provocation on the part of the Turks. From the beginning of the Turkish war, however, many of our compatriots had foreseen the trend of events in the contingency of Turkish defeats, and they had made preparations accordingly for self defence.



*Anarchy in Arjish and Shatak.*—In the first week in April large numbers of Turks and Kurds closed upon several Armenian villages in Arjish, north of the lake, collected all males between 15 and 65 years of age and carried out the fiendish plan of taking them out at night in batches and shooting them in cold blood. The Kurds were then let loose on some twenty prosperous villages in the district, the women and children were massacred in hundreds, and the houses were looted and burnt down. In a few days the *caza* of Arjish and part of Adiljevas were thus disposed of. Refugees from Arjish, who managed to escape to Van, told the horrible tale of the massacres. The news spread rapidly all over the country, and Armenians in the districts of Moks and Shatak, on the southern shores of the lake, took measures to defend themselves and cut the telegraph wires. In the encounters which ensued, Turkish gendarmes and Kurds were beaten and driven out of those districts. The Governor of Van got the Armenian leaders to agree to send a deputation to Shatak to induce the people to stop the fighting. The Armenian delegate chosen was Ishkhan, a young revolutionary leader, who had fought in at least fifteen battles against the tyrannies of Abdul Hamid. Accompanied by four companions, Ishkhan set out on his mission, but on the road to Shatak he and his companions were beset in a cowardly manner, and they were all murdered.

*The Siege of Van.*—In the mean time Djeddet Pasha, the Turkish Commander at Van, summoned to his presence Onnik Vramian, the Deputy of Van in the Turkish Chamber of Deputies, and demanded from him 6,000 Armenian rifles, £7,000, apparently for his own personal use, and the persons of seventy leading Armenians of the place. Vramian was detained as a hostage, in spite of his urgent appeal to be allowed to go and consult his colleagues. Secure in the clutches of the Commander, the brave Vramian was treacherously murdered, and the details of this dastardly act are not yet known to the public. The course to be followed by the Armenians was now obvious: either they must render passive submission and be robbed and butchered, or they must do their best to defend themselves; and they naturally decided on the latter course.

From April 10th Kurds were let loose on Armenian villages in isolated areas, and in these they carried on ruthless massacre and robberies. Flying bands of mounted Armenians made great efforts to collect all defenceless women and children in the city of Van and other centres where they could be protected against the enemy. By the 15th of April, Armenian villages in Arjish and Adiljevas had already been reduced, but on the whole of the southern shore of the lake and further south, in the Ardos chain of mountains, our compatriots had organised a splendid defence. In Shatak a large body of Turkish gendarmes was overpowered by Armenian rebels and wiped out. In the city of Van itself preparations were made to resist by submitting to a siege.

The city of Van, of some 45,000 inhabitants, 30,000 of whom are Armenians, is divided into two distinct parts, though these are connected by a long avenue, lined on both sides by rows of willows and poplars and courses of running water. The city itself, in which are situated the ancient castle and the famous rock, with cuneiform inscriptions, the arsenal, the Government buildings and the bazaars, is less than two miles east of the Lake. This part of the city has a mixed population of both Armenians and Turks. About two miles further east, and connected by the avenue, lies the garden city of the Armenians, spreading over a large area and extending to the foot of the hills on the north. In the portion of the city with the mixed population, the Armenians suffered at the beginning after desperate fighting, and all their quarters were heavily shelled by the Turks. But those in the garden city entrenched themselves in their homes and fought against the Turkish regular army and their artillery. About 5,000 young men of the town, under the leadership of Aram Manukian, an experienced revolutionary leader, succeeded in organising the defence. They blew up the Turkish barracks in the heart of the Armenian quarter, killing all the soldiers harboured within it. With thousands of marauding Kurds coming to strengthen the Turkish forces, desperate fighting and daring sorties took place in the first few days. The Armenians, however, had to husband to the utmost their store of ammunition, which they had purchased at exorbitant prices and had smuggled across the frontiers on their own backs. They were, of course, on the look out for help from the Armenian volunteer contingents and the Russian forces that were fighting their way through Azerbaijan and Alashkerd. Turkish reinforcements were being hurried up from Erzingian, in the vilayet of Erzeroum, under Colonel Saji Bey, to quell the "Armenian rebellion," and this "gallant officer" hacked his way through Terdjian, Khinis, and Kharakonis, massacring Armenian women and children on his way to Van. (We recounted some of the "exploits" of this officer in our last issue.—Ed. *Ararat*.)

*Capture of Van by Armenians.*—The besieged were running short of ammunition and stores. Appeals for help stirred the soul of the Armenians in Transcaucasia, who, in sight of the appalling tragedy of Van falling into the hands of the Turks, hurried forward Armenian Volunteer Contingents, numbering some 20,000 men, to the rescue of the besieged. Five Turkish officers, one of whom was a German, who were taken prisoners in the battle of Abagha, informed the Russian General that, after a month's siege, the Armenians in Van had succeeded in capturing the arsenal by a combined above-ground and underground attack. They had dug tunnels leading below the arsenal, and by a rush at night had overpowered and killed all the Turkish sentries and gunners, whereupon the Turks fled from the town on May 16th, three days before the arrival of the Russian forces.

*Russian Army Arrives.*—A correspondent of the *Horizon*, of Tiflis, himself a mounted volunteer who entered Van with the Russian army, thus writes from Van under date May 21st:—



"After a battle at Bayazid-Agha, a village in the plains of Abagha, we advanced with great rapidity to Bargri, north of the Lake, some sixteen hours' ride from the city (Van). We had another fight with the Turks at Djanik, where we routed the enemy. Then during the remaining ten hours of ride we fought practically for every inch of ground, taking three days to cover ground which is ordinarily done in ten hours. Nearing Van we found an absence of Turks. At 6 p.m. on May 19th we were in the outskirts of the city, when we saw in the distance large numbers of men advancing towards us. We dismounted from our horses and took positions for fighting; we discharged a volley, and then a second, but they did not reply. Then, amid the dust and smoke, two men came straight towards us, calling out in Armenian that we were brethren. We then mounted to advance, and in the space of five minutes we were met by Aram and his Armenian staff, who had come out to welcome us. . . . We embraced each other with such brotherly warmth as none of us had yet experienced. Amid the booming of guns by the Armenians, the Russian General and the Armenian Volunteers were received with joy in the city. The entire population lined the march, and showered roses and other flowers, which covered the dusty streets. Led by the Bishop and clergy they sang enthusiastically the hymn of liberation and placed the keys of the city in the hands of the General."

In the meantime the Turkish inhabitants of Van set fire to their quarters and fled. And in the national stock-taking it was found that about 100,000 Armenian refugees from the neighbouring villages had been given asylum in the City of Van, while 20,000 were being protected in Anahid, an islet in the Lake. As there seemed to be now plenty of arms and ammunition, which had been captured from the Turks, bands were organised and hurriedly sent to the rescue of those fighting in Moks and Shatakh. We have noted too from the official *communiqués* issued by the Headquarters of the Army of the Caucasus that no sooner the capture of Van was complete, the Russian army moved southwards, and in a few days cleared the Turks and Kurds out of Vostan, Moks and Sorp.

*A Reminiscence of the Spirit of Van.*—The heroic stand of the Armenians in Van and the capture of the city brings back to memory an episode of nineteen years ago. During the autumn of 1895 wholesale massacres were carried out under the orders of the Turkish Government in all centres throughout Armenia and Asia Minor. Van was spared in that autumn owing, perhaps, to the "rebellious" quality of its Armenian inhabitants. But Abdul Hamid was not satisfied, and sent one of his faithful adherents, Saddredin Pasha, to bring matters to a head.

In June, 1896, the Turkish mob and gendarmes, at a fixed hour and a given signal, began an attack on the Armenians. Eight hundred native and some Russian Armenians put up a stout resistance for six

days. The Turks then brought their artillery to bombard the Armenian quarter. Through the medium of the consuls of the Powers an agreement was reached between the Turks and the Armenians, whereby the latter promised to leave the city and proceed to Persia, while the Turks, on their part, agreed to desist from the massacres. Thus the purely Armenian quarter of the city was saved, thanks to the resistance of the 800 fighting men. These latter, however, according to the promise given, had to wend their way to Persia—a no easy task, as they had to do it fighting, the Turks having their eye on them. They passed through Bashkale, but exhausted by hunger and confronted with a lack of ammunition, they were attacked by strong Turco-Kurdish forces almost on the borders of Persia and were annihilated to a man.

In 1897, however, these valiant 800 Armenians were avenged by a well-organised Armenian attack on Sherif Bey and Sheikh Hamid Pasha, two notorious brigands, who had been instrumental in barring their way towards Persia. The dens of these Kurdish chiefs were laid waste, and their power for mischief was curbed for a long time to come.

*Situation in Mush.*—While Van and parts of the province of Bitlis have been cleared of the Turks, the town of Bitlis and the Mush and Sasoun regions are still at grips with Turkish regulars and Kurds.

Up to the end of January last affairs were allowed to proceed in the ordinary course, except for high-handed military requisitions and the customary oppressions. Early in February an encounter took place at Tzerouk, a village about four hours' ride to the north of Mush, between Armenian deserters from the Turkish ranks and Turkish gendarmes, in which one of the latter was killed. The authorities sent 300 irregular Kurdish cavalry to wreak vengeance on the village, which was looted, burnt down, and its women ill-treated; a hundred Armenian peasants were, besides, cast into prison.

Then again, towards the end of February, some Turkish officials, accompanied by the notorious brigand Mehmed Emin, proceeded to the Armenian village of Koms on the Euphrates, some twenty miles west of Mush, to collect the road-tax. The Armenian peasants courteously produced their receipts to show that the road-tax for the current year had already been paid, and that they were not in a position to pay any more. The Turks immediately set to work to beat the men and to ill-treat the women. Now the village of Koms has at least three times within the last twenty years suffered terribly at the hands of this same Mehmed Emin. The home of the Headman was on three occasions robbed and burnt down, and his family of eighty persons was reduced to about twenty. One of his grandsons named Goriun (little lion), one of the most daring young men the writer ever met, joined the Revolutionary Committee and did his share in harrying Mehmed Emin, the persecutor of his family. In 1907 the writer was at the home of this rich and prosperous family, which is now reduced well-nigh to starvation. After the Turkish Revolution, Goriun was



amnestied and returned to his ruined home in order to start life afresh. Taking advantage of the present anarchical state of the country, Mehmed Emin thought to avenge himself at last with the help of the authorities. On that unfortunate February day the squabble over the road-tax grew to greater dimensions and ended in an open fight. Goriun immediately organised the village for defence and demanded the surrender of Mehmed Emin, allowing the others to leave the village if they wished. This led to a fight, when most of the Turkish following and Mehmed Emin were killed; and it was only through the intervention of Goriun and Roupen, another stalwart leader, that the two Turkish officials were rescued and escorted to Mush.

The Governor of Mush, laying the blame of the disorders at Koms on the Dashnaksuthiun party, ordered the arrest of Mons. V. Papazian, the Armenian Deputy for Van in the Turkish Parliament, who was on his way to Constantinople. Papazian proposed that a Commission should be formed to inquire into the fighting at Koms, and the military Commandant of Mush, with 300 regular troops, and some Armenians, went to the village. The inquiry, which was really an excuse for unbridled action on the part of the Turks, led to the decision that the events at Koms were due to the personal vengeance of Goriun, and absolved the Dashnaksuthiun party of any complicity. The leaders at Koms, however, suspected some trick on the part of the Turks, and Roupen and others escaped and joined Goriun, who had already taken refuge in the mountains.

The next phase of the persecution of Armenians in this region took the form of an attack on the monastery of Surp Arakelotz, about 15 miles from Mush, ostensibly for the purpose of arresting deserters. The Abbot gave the assurance that there were no such persons within the monastery. The Turks, however, refused to accept the statement, knocked down the venerable old Abbot, seized some of the servants of the monastery, and were about to lead them all to Mush.

They were attacked by a body of Armenians who appeared suddenly, and many of the Turks were killed and their captives were rescued. This led to larger forces being despatched by the authorities, ending in a battle at the foot of the hills above the town of Mush. Also about the middle of April irregular bodies of Kurdish cavalry rode into the town of Mush and indiscriminately shot down every Armenian they came across; about 200 Armenians fell in the streets of Mush on this occasion.

The Armenians realised the obvious—it was to them a struggle for life or death. Goriun, Roupen and others organised bands to scour the plains of Mush, and the hills overlooking the plains, and desperate fighting has been going on ever since. Exact details are lacking, but judging by the news that has leaked out through fugitives, Armenian villages in the eastern part of the district of Mush seem to be holding out well against tremendous odds. According to one report, 9,000 Turkish troops were hurriedly despatched from Erzeroum early in May to quell the Armenian rebellion in Mush. We can but

hope that the Russo-Armenian forces, which have already occupied Melazgerd and Boulanik, hard by, would hurry on to relieve these sporadic bands of fighters who have been forced to take all possible measures for defending their hearths and homes. Before the arrival of the Russo-Armenian forces at Boulanik, the notorious Moussa Bey of Khevner had put to the sword the inhabitants of several defenceless villages in the *cazas* of Boulanik and Melazgerd.

*Situation in Sasoun.*—Information from the mountainous tracts of Sasoun is scanty. The Armenian villages on the lower slopes have been destroyed and the majority of their inhabitants massacred. But in upper Sasoun Armenians are holding their positions, as they have always done, with more or less success. In April there was a report that by a night attack the Sasounlis made a descent into the plains and annihilated a whole battalion of Turkish regulars coming from Diarbekir, who were attempting to get on to their rear.

*Situation in Bitlis and elsewhere.*—Bitlis is unfortunately situated, but the Armenian quarter is reported to be defending itself since the beginning of May, though terrible massacres are said to have occurred in the neighbouring Armenian villages. With regard to Diarbekir, Kharpout and other districts with large Armenian populations, which are farther removed from the Russian or other frontiers, it has so far been impossible to get any trustworthy information.

A. S. SAFRASTIAN.

## The Chairman of the British Armenia Committee.

Mr. Aneurin Williams, whose portrait appears in this issue, was born of Welsh parents on October 11th, 1859, in Dowlais, Glamorgan-shire, South Wales. After matriculating with honours at the London University, he continued his studies at St. John's College, Cambridge, where his name appeared in the Classical Tripos. Though called to the Bar in 1884, he has never attempted to practice as a Barrister owing to his determination to devote himself to public work.

After travelling for a brief period on the Continent, he returned to Cambridge to study Political Economy, and gave a short course of lectures on the subject at Toynbee Hall, intending to make it his chief business to lecture on that subject. The death of his father, however, changed his plans. He became interested in his father's iron works at Middlesbrough, in which he held the position of Secretary, as well as being a partner. This naturally brought him into close connection with labour, and he decided that the Labour Co-partnership Movement was the most useful Association to which he could devote



figure in the International Conference at Paris last November, and it was on his initiative that there was brought into the resolutions adopted by that body the weighty rider that the delegates should interview their several Governments with a view to insisting on the essential element of European control over the reforms. . . . . We have been fortunate in the past in having great men to help us—there is the outstanding figure of Gladstone, there is Viscount Bryce, our keen friend and supporter, and there have been a host of others. Their mantle has now fallen on our friend Mr. Aneurin Williams, and these champions are doing the work of humanity in trying to shape the opinion of this nation, so as to bring to bear on European diplomacy the necessity of seeing that the birthrights of mankind, liberty and security of life, are not withheld from our little nation. . . . . Mr. Williams will, we trust, live to see yet his labours fructify, and Armenia become the centre for the dissemination of the civilisation of the West amongst the backward nations of Kurdistan, Mesopotamia and Persia, a task for which she is eminently fitted. He is doing a great work for the cause of humanity, and his efforts and his sympathies, whatever may be the outcome, will ever be cherished in the hearts of the grateful four millions of souls scattered throughout the world. . . . . who wish him health and strength, and all wisdom in counsel, for prosecuting the labours he has so disinterestedly undertaken on behalf of Armenia and the Armenians.”

## The Armenian Society.

A Drawing-room Meeting of this Society, which was its first Annual General Meeting, was held at No. 7, The Boltons, by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds. The Rt. Hon. G. W. E. Russell presided, supported by Miss Robinson, the Hon. Secretary, and Mr. H. A. Godson Bohn, the Hon. Treasurer. There were present: Viscount and Viscountess Bryce, Sir Edwin Pears, Col. and Mrs. G. M. Gregory, the Rev. Henry Westall, the Rev. Dr. W. E. Rosedale, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Hacopian, Miss Aganoor, Miss Stephenson, Miss Laxton, Mr. Threadgold, and many others interested in Armenia.

After some preliminary business had been transacted, Miss Robinson read her report of the Society for the year just ending. The Rt. Hon. Chairman said they were fortunate that afternoon in having with them Viscount Bryce, whom all those interested in Armenia looked up to as their leader (applause). He had much pleasure, therefore, in calling upon Lord Bryce to say what the clergy would call “a few words” (laughter).



Viscount Bryce, received with applause, then dealt exhaustively with the Armenian question in an able speech. The Turks, he said, thought there was only one way of getting rid of the Armenian question, and that was by getting rid of the Armenians. The whole trouble arose through this Treaty of Berlin, whereby it became everybody's business to look after the interests of the Armenians. The Turk took advantage of this, seizing hold of the jealousies of the various Powers and playing one off against the other, an operation the Turk so dearly loved, and the consequence was that no Power did its business. The lot of the poor Armenian had, in the mean time, gone from worse to worse, causing the bitterest anguish and resentment, and leaving the people to be preyed upon and bullied. Some *zaptiehs* would appear on the scene and carry oppression to such limits as to raise resentment on the part of the peasant folk—an act which would at once be treated by Constantinople as an excuse for a massacre. However, there was a bright day coming for Armenia, in common with other little nations who had dared to stand up against the tyrant. (Hear, hear.) He said that from humanitarian motives, from Christian motives, England was bound to help this small nation at this time of their national crisis. He had always watched their efforts, and was sure that the British public only needed awakening to what this small nation had done in the Eastern seat of war to realise that they owe them a debt equal in measure to the debt owed to heroic little Belgium. He was glad to see that afternoon British friends of Armenia gathered together to do what they could in this great cause. He thanked them all for so patiently listening to what he feared had taken up too much of their time. (No, no, and applause.)

Sir Edwin Pears then responded to the call of the Chairman to say a few words. Referring to the last speaker, he in common with all those interested in Armenia felt glad that they had such a great champion in their leader (applause). Although Lord Bryce had left little for him to say, he would add a few touches to the ample picture they had seen unfolded. He knew the Armenians well, and they were the only intelligent portion of the Ottoman Empire. He had also a great admiration for their broad-mindedness, of which he could give an instance from personal knowledge. His daughter was anxious to open a Hall in memory of one dear to her, and it was to be in an Armenian village. She had invited Bishop Collins, of Gibraltar, to open it. When at the village, the Armenians invited the Bishop to preach in their church. The Bishop objected, as he had no robes, he said. The Armenians at once produced the robes of an Armenian Bishop which they hoped he would wear, and he accordingly did. Thus was seen the unique sight of an Anglican Bishop preaching to an Armenian congregation in the robes of an Armenian Bishop. Here we have a proof of their broad-mindedness in religious matters. Then also the Armenians were artistic and versatile in literature. Looking round the room where they were, he noticed numbers of works of art on the walls, and that reminded him of the pre-eminent artistic

qualities of Armenians. Such was not the case with the Turk. But the Armenian shone in Literature and Art; Sculpture and Painting claimed his attention, and wherever you found him there also you found a thirst for knowledge and learning. Look at all their schools spread throughout the land, and take note of the keenness of both young and old. One often met a poor Armenian with book in hand, poring over its contents to pick up some foreign language. In his long sojourn in the East he had met very many of them and was always struck with their great ability; and he was sure that under happier circumstances this nation would show a very high standard and become a really prosperous community—and he hoped to see it a self-governing nation. (Loud applause.)

The Chairman then called upon Lt.-Col. Gregory, President of the Armenian United Association of London, to address the meeting. Col. Gregory extolled the foresight of the originator of the Armenian Society—a small society and of tender age, but precocious enough to start in life “The Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund”; and the two together were doing a work of humanity which was deeply appreciated by Armenians in this hour of their crisis. It was meet, therefore, that an Armenian should express to the members of the Society their deep and heartfelt gratitude for the sympathetic, unselfish and Christian labours which were being devoted by their English friends to their cause. After stating that too little attention had hitherto been given to “small nations,” the speaker proceeded thus:—

“It is perhaps to heroic little Belgium that Armenia will owe her gratitude in the first instance, for opening the eyes of the civilised Powers as to the uses of little nations. What Belgium has undergone for the past ten months, Armenia has suffered for centuries; and it is a marvel that she has not been entirely wiped out as the Babylonians, the Assyrians, the Hittites, but still retains that same vitality she possessed in the time of the Roman Empire, though much reduced in numbers. . . . Perhaps you do not know the details of the causes which brought about the recent threat to the Turkish Ministers by the Entente Powers, that they would be held personally responsible if any more massacres of Armenians occurred. I hold here a letter from the head of our nation, and a telegram recently received from those parts setting forth the ghastly state of affairs in our country, and the appeal to the Great Powers for help—but, alas! the only hope of help lies in the penetration of the Russian armies, and I am happy to say that that army has in its ranks a goodly proportion of Armenians. We see glimpses of that relief coming—Van, the old capital of Armenia, with rock inscriptions dating back to the time of Xenophon, had been beleaguered for over a month, and has just lately been rescued by a Russian force, of whom I hear 80 per cent. were Armenians. That anarchy and bloodshed will give place to freedom and security I am certain—and you English can give a helping hand in the regeneration of our country as no other nation can, for you are looked upon as the pioneer nation of the world in the cause of freedom. . . . Perhaps



some day, when peace reigns again and Armenia has come by her own, you will be taking a journey to that Switzerland of the East, and will satisfy yourselves that the people you are helping to-day are your brethren in the task of propagating the ideas of Western civilisation, quick to learn and quick to impart, having their own past civilisation and their National Church at their back, and with capabilities no whit behind those of the Western nations, but requiring development.

"I thank you again on behalf of Armenians, and I cannot help coupling with my thanks the gratitude we owe to Miss Robinson, on whose initiative the Armenian Society was formed, and to whose indefatigable labours is due the bringing forward of the name of Armenia to the extent it has come before the British public."

Col. Gregory then proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding, and to Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds for their kind hospitality, both of which were carried with acclamation and responded to.

During the course of the meeting the Rt. Hon. Chairman and President of the Armenian Society proposed that a message of deep sympathy with the Armenian people in their troubles and of good wishes for the future be sent from the meeting to His Holiness the Catholicos at Etchmiadzin. The resolution was carried enthusiastically.

Before the meeting dispersed for tea, a few sympathetic words were spoken by Mr. Threadgold, an old friend in the past of Armenians, whose kindly acts are remembered by many an orphan he assisted.

## Internal State of Asia Minor.

The following is a translation of an important and instructive interview taken from "Mschak" of May 17th (O.S.), one of the most influential and trustworthy of Armenian daily papers published at Tiflis:—

ALEXANDROPOL, 11th May, 1915.

On the 10th of this month, while on his journey from Sarikamish to Tiflis, stepped out at this station for lunch Dr. Khachatour Bonapartian, a native of Malatia, taken prisoner by our army on the 3rd of May. Dr. Bonapartian studied medicine at the American College of Malatia and the Faculty of Medicine at Beyrouth, and carried on medical work as a general practitioner up to the outbreak of war, when he was invited to serve in the army (Turkish) as military surgeon. He was first sent to Kharbert-Mezreh, then to Van and later to Erzeroum, where he did duty until a few days ago when he escaped from the Turkish lines on horseback, crossed the Tzansakh river, made for the village of Tzaru and gave himself up to our Cossaks. I asked Dr. Bonapartian the reason of his flight.

"It was impossible to stay any longer," he answered. "The Turks were savagely attacking and killing Armenian conscripts as traitors and friends of Russia. Not only were they disarmed, tortured and set to the hardest and most repulsive kinds of labour, but they were slaughtered like chicken."

"What made the Turks behave as they did?"

"The answer is simple. First of all, the very fact of being Armenians. Then, the brave deeds of Armenian soldiers in the Caucasian (Russian) army. Thirdly, because Armenians in the Turkish army, unable to suffer the unbearable treatment meted out to them by the Turks, deserted in numbers whenever they found the opportunity. I may also mention the fact that many Armenians secured exemption from service by payments of money, and in order not to expose themselves to further blackmail, either fled the country or took to the mountains and forests and carried on a guerilla warfare."

"Are there many such guerilla bands?"

"In the seven or eight vilayets there must be more than 50,000 Armenian young men, who make constant descents from the mountains to see that the Turks do not venture to attack and massacre their villages. These bands are fairly well armed and are impatiently awaiting the arrival of the Russian army so that they may join hands with them and save their country from the blood-thirsty Turks. They are a force not to be despised, especially as they are seasoned to all imaginable privations. They only need to be organised and co-ordinated. They will fearlessly face any danger if only they have proper leaders."

"Have these bands been long in existence?"

"Almost since the outbreak of war; and they have chosen such inaccessible positions that they have so far not even been pursued. This immunity from attack they also owe to the fact that they have found means of constant communication, and co-operate in case of danger. Fifty thousand fighting men are not to be lightly dismissed, especially when many of them are armed with modern rifles. Not only have the Armenian conscripts carried to the mountains their Turco-German weapons, but many Turkish soldiers have sold to them their rifles at a nominal price to hasten the end of 'Young Turk' tyranny."

"In that case the masses of the Turkish people are not in favour of the war?"

"Not at all. The people do not wish to fight. They are fighting reluctantly, but have no means of opposing Enver's instruments, who have sold themselves to the Germans and ruined the country. I was at Erzeroum just a month ago. The situation had become unendurable. Exasperated and maddened, the Turks were execrating the Sultan and Enver and the Armenians, and even their religious heads, for having brought the country into its present state. They will receive the Russian army with open arms if they attempt to enter Erzeroum as they entered Van."

"Is the position so hopeless?"



"The state of things is bad indeed. Eight months of typhus has destroyed like flies quite fifty per cent. of the Anatolian army of nearly 500,000 men. Twenty per cent. was done to death by the terrible cold of Sarikamish, Olty, Giola and Ardahan. Another twenty per cent. were taken prisoners. To-day Enver's filibustering accomplices have hardly 50,000 regulars between Trebizond and Van. No help, no support whatever comes from the side of Trebizond or Sivas. The Turkish soldier is in a pitiable condition."

"What is the condition of Armenians at Erzeroum?"

"They are in a state of alarm and panic, expecting every moment a general and terrible massacre. Robbed, tortured and reduced in body and mind by the tensest anxiety, hundreds are dragging out an indescribably miserable existence in the prisons, hunted and harried for some imaginary political offence."

"How did you escape from the Turkish lines, and gain ours?"

"It is simple enough. I was at the front for eight months moving between the right and left wings, superintending field hospitals, the transferences of the sick and wounded and medical stores. Of late I became growingly conscious of the probability that sooner or later I would meet the fate of so many other Armenians in the Turkish army, and when on my way between Kard Choukha and Hasan Keni, I left the road accompanied with my attendant, and spurring our horses, made as fast as we could for Tzaru. . . ."

(Sd.) ATRPIET

## "Droschak" Speaks to Turkey.

We give below a translation of a strong and telling protest which has been addressed by wire from the above leading Armenian newspaper of Geneva, the organ of the *Dashnaksuthiun* party, to Talaat Bey, Turkish Minister of the Interior at Constantinople:—

"It is with profound pain that we address this telegram to you, to protest with all our strength and energy against the recent horrors committed upon the Armenian people by Kurds and Turks, acting in conjunction—a most serious fact—with the regular Turkish army.

"Who organised these massacres? Who is responsible for these atrocities, which put into the shade the already sufficiently terrible horrors of the Hamidian régime? Who has spread this veil of mourning throughout Armenia, stretching from Cilicia to the Arax and to Mt. Ararat? Who has reduced that unhappy country to a heap of

ruins by ruthlessly massacring the males, regardless of age, by violating and carrying away the women; and who has left there only the old and the sick to weep over their smouldering wreckage?

"The number of victims who have fallen can be counted not by hundreds but by thousands. Almost all Armenian villages have suffered; a good many have been razed to the ground and there is no vestige of them left. Apparently it was not sufficient to rob the inhabitants by seizing all they possessed under the guise of army requisitions; it was not considered sufficient to gather together all young men capable of bearing arms and then, instead of sending them to the front, to massacre them in a cowardly manner in some lonely corner; to shock and to wound the national and religious feelings of these recruits by forcing them to accomplish deeds of shame, by wrongly accusing them of espionage and treachery, and often by murdering them. It was not enough to remove distinguished Armenian leaders, either by imprisonment or by exile into some distant quarter; nor was it enough to strike terror among the whole population; it was necessary, moreover, to turn Armenia and Cilicia into a vast graveyard.

"Who is the guilty party? The entire world, your unfortunate victims before anyone else, proclaim your crime to your face, and to that of those others who up to yesterday were your friends and with whom you partook of bread and salt.

"And why these unheard-of crimes? Is it because this martyr nation struggled with all its power against the Hamidian régime and contributed to a large extent to the Turkish Revolution? Is it because you designated the Armenians your tutors in revolution? Is it because they had placed at the disposal of your young government all their youthful and virile powers to defend your Constitution and your newly-fledged Liberty?

"Is it because, at the moment of the Hamidian counter-revolution, the Armenians alone remained faithful to the Constitution and lent you their loyal support, when a large number of your own comrades forsook you?

"Your Government has imprisoned most of our companions, and among them are many whom you seemed to consider as your friends and your advisers. And when you had consolidated your position and thought yourselves beyond danger, you failed to keep the promises made to your allies of yesterday, and you openly adopted an anti-Armenian attitude; they (the Armenians), however, continued to remain loyal towards you, straining every nerve to dissuade you from the false policy which you were pursuing towards their people and towards the whole Turkish Empire. And, when we became tired of the contest and broke off those official connections wherein we had combined, we never assumed any unfriendly attitude; on the contrary, we have continued to fulfil our duties both towards you and our common



fatherland. We have made efforts towards opening your eyes on the subject of your nefarious policy, we have adjured you not to compass your own destruction by opening hostilities against Russia; to pay no heed to the influence of Germany, and not to march against the Triple Entente, two of the members of which, England and France, have always shown proofs of sincere friendship towards Turkey, and have, on many occasions, saved her very existence.

"And what have you done when those age-long friends of yours, and with them your not less age-long enemy, Russia, pledged themselves to maintain the integrity of Turkey? You have shown yourselves ungrateful; you have turned against your liberators of the past and have thrown yourselves, dazzled by her power, into the arms of Germany, and have broken your wise neutrality, thus bringing to its ruin the Ottoman Empire.

"The country, which was already poor, has been completely ruined. You have brought on terrible complications and bloody defeats on the frontiers of Armenia and have sacrificed innumerable young lives. And you are now engaged in the death struggle, and, seeing that henceforth you are incapable of saving your country, you are flinging yourselves in a cowardly manner on the miserable Armenians who are defenceless and unarmed.

"It is your policy which has driven the Armenians to organise bands for contending against the systematic extermination of their race: What you have sown that you will reap.

"The organ of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, independently of Party and under its own responsibility, declares hereby to you, the representatives of the Government and members of the Committee of Union and Progress, that it indicts you and holds you morally and judicially responsible for the crimes committed against the Armenian people, as well as against the Ottoman Empire."

GENEVA,

June 2nd, 1915.

DROSCHAK,

Organ of the *Dashnaksuthiun*.

## Armenians in the United States.

Towards mitigating the terrible atrocities that were being committed by Turks and Kurds against defenceless Armenians on their native soil, already drenched with the blood of their forefathers, we noticed last month that the Catholicos had taken action by direct appeal to the heads of States which are the guardians of the rights of humanity and liberty. The Armenian Committees of the various important colonies have taken similar action towards the Governments of their adopted countries. We are asked to publish the annexed appeal which the Armenians of the United States of America have submitted to President Wilson:—

To His Excellency,

WOODROW WILSON,

*President of the United States of America.*

May it please your Excellency:—

This deputation appears before Your Excellency on behalf of the Armenian Church of the Armenian community of America, as also on behalf of American citizens of Armenian origin, living in the United States, with the mission of submitting to Your Excellency as the supreme head of the noble and chivalrous American nation, certain matters affecting the life, honour and the very existence of the Armenian people. We make this appeal to Your Excellency not on the strength of any treaty obligations with Turkey or by reason of any treaties binding the United States to guarantee the life and honour of the long suffering and martyred people of Armenia; but on broader grounds of humanity and Christendom, for the United States Government and people have always extended their sympathy and their moral support toward all down-trodden races and have never ceased to place their moral and material influence at the disposal of the cause of mankind.

The world mission assumed by the United States is not an accident in their life, but is the outcome of the very spirit that has given birth to their existence as a nation and to the liberal institutions of the founders of this great Republic. It was Lafayette who, after the proclamation of American independence, uttered these far-reaching words: "May this immense temple that we are dedicating to liberty offer for all times a lesson to the oppressors and an example to the oppressed and shelter for the rights of mankind, and may it bring joy for centuries to come to the ashes of its founders." It is this conception of American liberty that gives us the courage to approach your Excellency and to lay before Your Excellency the heart-tearing condition of Armenia and the terrible crisis which the Armenian nation is traversing at this juncture in Armenia.

Armenia, by reason of her geographical position, has for some centuries become the battlefield of nations. Its peaceful development has continually been trampled upon, especially after the foundation of Christianity, for the Armenians were the first to embrace the new faith. Armenian people have, nevertheless, stood firm towards their Christian belief and nationality in Armenia which the great Belgian writer, Verhaeren, has styled "The Belgium of the Near East," and became the torch bearer and pioneer of Western civilisation and progress in that part of the world. During these last fifty years, moreover, Turkish barbarism played havoc with the people of Armenia where massacres, plunder, rape and incendiarism have succeeded each other in the years 1896, 1897 and 1908, which aroused the indignation of the whole civilised world.



This deputation respectfully submits that this state of affairs in Armenia is much more lamentable and more heart-tearing now than it was at any previous period of her history, because the fanaticism of the Turkish mobs and government is given free play, is uncontrolled and unchecked by reason of the powers that might have had a restraining effect on them being now engaged in war.

We beg leave to remind Your Excellency that the Prelate of the Armenian Church of America, in a memorial dated the 6th of February and addressed to the State Department, took occasion to lay before it the condition of the unprotected and defenceless Armenian populations of Turkey and sought the friendly intervention of your Government. We are thankful to the State Department for the considerate manner in which it approached the subject, but since the memorial has been presented, events have developed with such great rapidity and massacres have desolated the country to such an extent that the Primate of the Armenian Church and nation, his Holiness, Monsignor Sourenian, has by telegram sought the protection of the United States Government for the relief and salvation of Armenian people. A rapid glance will enable your Excellency to grasp the situation. The mobilisation in Turkey became a mere pretext for the purpose of plundering the non-Turkish elements of the Turkish Empire. Not only have the Armenian Christians been made to pay the onerous military exemption tax several times, but their moneys, property and belongings have been usurped and the Armenian inhabitants of Turkey were compelled to feed and to provide for quarters for the mobilised soldiers that were to be sent to the front; thus before the outbreak of the Russian-Turkish War, the Turkish Government created and brought about a sort of artificial famine which is decimating the Armenian people. After the Russian armies had to fall back on their own territory, the Turkish mobs and military, inebriated by temporary victories, wreaked vengeance on the unarmed and peaceful populations of Armenia and aggravated a situation already untenable. Your Excellency has no doubt read of these heartrending reports affecting the fate of thousands of refugees who had to find shelter in the Caucasus, fleeing before the onslaughts of the Turkish military and of predatory tribes.

We have strong reasons to believe that these massacres will be extended more and more throughout every town and village of Armenia, and this is the reason why at this critical moment, when the fate of the Armenian nation is at stake, we have taken the liberty to approach your Excellency for the purpose of seeking some relief for those unfortunate populations through the legitimate influence of this giant Republic of the West under whose glorious flag live in peace so many races and creeds. In what way that influence is to be brought into play, it is not for us to

state, and we think that we have fulfilled our mandate by submitting this brief but true and terrible picture of the fate of an ancient, historic people, worthy of a better future, which in the past rendered such signal services to the cause of Christianity, civilisation, and human liberty.

Respectfully submitted,

ARSENE E. VEHOUNI,  
*Prelate of the Armenian Church of America.*  
MOUCHEGH SEROPIAN,  
*Archbishop.*

DR. P. ADAMIAN,  
*Chairman, Armenian Church Council.*  
MIHRAN SIVAZLI,  
*Chairman, Armenian National Defence Committee.*

Prelacy of the Armenian Church of America,  
65, Laurel Street, Worcester, Mass.

To the above was received the following reply:—

*Department of State, Washington.*

*May 15th, 1915.*

MY DEAR SIRS,

I have brought to the attention of the President the petition which you, in conjunction with other officials of your Church presented, and for the President, as well as myself, beg to assure you that as in the past we shall be pleased to do everything in our power to protect the members of the Armenian Church, and those of other religious faiths, from persecution in the belligerent countries.

I am, Sirs,

Your obedient servant,  
(Signed) W. J. BRYAN.

Right Rev. A. VEHOUNI,  
Prelate of Armenian Church of America.

Most Reverend MOUCHEGH SEROPIAN,  
Armenian Archbishop.

## Armenian Refugees' Relief Fund.

There is an ebb and a flow in all matters mundane, and our Relief Fund is no exception to the rule. We cannot complain that our efforts among those interested in our Association, by being the means of collecting over £7,000 for relieving acute distress among our own people, have been of little value. But where the gift of money is concerned among those who are not provided with the goods of this world in an equal measure, a time must come for a lull or a cessation



in the in-flow. We seem to have come to such a lull at the present moment, and while expressing our deep sense of appreciation to those who have assisted in bringing our Fund to its present figure, we cannot refrain from launching our appeal with redoubled force, knowing well that there are many among our readers to whom hundreds and thousands are as half-crowns to others. On these we would impress the fact that at the close of the war a gigantic sum will be needed to re-settle our people in their homes that have been ruthlessly destroyed. Nor should we forget the present daily need of food and protection for the immense number of refugees in the Caucasus who are perforce looking to the Head of our Church for their bare existence. We, none of us, can repudiate our responsibility where our own people are concerned, and the more comfortably situated we are, the greater is our responsibility in this crucial moment of our history. Our appeal, therefore, is not to those who have already given their mite, but to those who, from their abundance, have the power to assist materially; and to these we say, do not permit any ebb in our contributions, but let it be a steady flow until the hour of need is past.

Since our last issue, the following are the receipts and the position of the Fund :—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. and Mrs. C. Alma Baker, Perak, \$60 ..	7	0	7
Mr. G. C. Armstrong .. .. .	2	0	0
Miss A. Bagram (2nd contribution) ..	0	10	0
Through Mrs. Diana Agabeg Apcar, 8th list ..	1	10	5
Do. do. by sale of patriotic postcards in Hongkong .. .. .	10	0	0
Total received in June .. .. .	21	1	0
Amount previously received .. .. .	7,046	16	6
Grand total .. .. .	£7,067	17	6

#### Expenditure :—

	£	s.	d.
Remitted to the Catholicos up to date .. ..	6,910	0	0
Balance in hand on June 26th .. .. .	157	17	6
Grand total .. .. .	£7,067	17	6

Of the sums received we are able to give the following details. The sum of £310 acknowledged in our last issue from Singapore was made up of the following contributions :—

Mrs. John S. Sarkies ..	\$1,000.00	Mr. Basil Johannes ..	\$10.00
Mrs. M. S. Martin ..	250.00	Mr. J. Gabriel ..	5.00
Miss L. Martin ..	100.00	Mr. T. L. Chater ..	20.00
Miss M. Manook ..	5.00	Children of M. S. Martin ..	100.00
Mrs. S. A. Edgar ..	100.00	Mr. M. S. Martin ..	200.00
Miss S. Joaquim ..	25.00	Mr. M. C. Gasper ..	10.00
Mrs. E. Johannes ..	25.00	Mr. C. G. Carapiet ..	10.00
Mr. M. Johannes ..	10.00	Mrs. C. D'Almeida ..	10.00
Messrs. Edgar Brothers ..	500.00	Mr. M. C. Johannes ..	50.00
Mr. G. M. Gregory ..	50.00	A. B. C. ..	1.00
Mr. S. Z. Creet ..	50.00	Mr. A. M. Sarkies ..	66.11
Mr. M. P. Malcolm ..	25.00		
Mr. T. L. Gaulstin ..	25.00		
Mr. J. C. Joseph ..	25.00		
Mr. E. Johannes ..	10.00		
		Total ..	\$2,682.11

The contributors in the 8th list sent by Mrs. Diana Agabeg Apcar from Yokohama are :—

A. K. .. .. .	10.00 Yen.
Anonymous .. .. .	5.00 ..
	15.00 Yen=£1 10 5

The sum of £10 sent by the same lady, being the proceeds of the sale of patriotic postcards in Hongkong, is made up of the following contributions :—

Mr. F. Ellis .. ..	\$10.00	Mr. Ellis Kadoorie ..	\$25.00
Mr. M. Owen .. ..	5.05	Messrs. Sassoon, Gubbay ..	15.00
Mr. T. M. Gregory ..	10.00	and Howard .. ..	29.03
Mr. N. Manuk .. ..	5.00	Armenian Lady .. ..	
Mr. O. E. Owen .. ..	5.00		
Mr. B. K. Mody .. ..	1.00		
Mr. A. Abdoolrahim ..	5.00		
			\$110.08

## The Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund.

We have the pleasure to be able to record that a generous response has been made to our appeal for money to be spent in sending out drugs for the use of Armenian Volunteers in the Caucasus. A munificent cheque for £50 has been received from Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., Mr. H. P. Hacopian, of Sourabaya, Java, has sent a cheque for £35, which sum he has most kindly collected there; names of donors being, N. P. Hacopian £4, E. W. Edgar £4, G. L. Apcar £4, H. P. Hacopian £4,



A. G. Edgar £4, Mack Hacobian £4, Mrs. P. H. Hacobian £4, V. A. Apcar £4, Mrs. M. Ellis £2, I. P. Hacobian £1. Mr. Andrew A. Stewart, of Belfast, has very kindly collected £25. Miss Smart has very kindly collected £2 13s. at Harrogate. Graham Hastings and Miss M. L. Haddock have each sent £5. An anonymous donor sent £3, Mrs. Hancock £2 10s.; Miss Pritchard, Mrs. Wyndham Chaplin, J. Bray, and "Anon." have each sent £2; W. Edgar Enman, Miss Whitehead, Miss F. de Winton and Mrs. Robertson (second donation) have each sent £1; "T.H.M." sends £1 1s.; and others send smaller sums. A permit to send out a large supply of quinine, salol and carbonate of bismuth is being applied for.

The many letters of sympathy with offers and promises of help which have been received testify to the interest shown in the Fund among all classes of society.

We shall be most thankful to receive any sums for the purchase of more drugs, which are urgently needed. We shall also be thankful to receive any sums to be devoted to the Repatriation Fund. This money, dispensed by local committees who are collaborating under His Holiness the Catholicos, will be employed in rebuilding the homes of the destitute refugees and in supplying them with horses and material to stock their farms, so that they can once more have a part and earn their living in the land of their fathers. It is most important that this work should be carried out effectively and completely. To this end the sum of £500,000 is required.

It is hoped to send out a third consignment of warm clothing about the end of September, if a sufficient quantity is collected. An address will be given later on to which the garments can be sent. These should be new or of excellent quality to make it worth while sending them so far, also they should be of wool. Mufflers, socks, stockings, shirts, vests, shawls—in fact anything warm for men, women or children will be very welcome.

All communications regarding the Fund should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Miss E. J. Robinson, at 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, London, W.

EMILY J. ROBINSON.

## Local Jottings.

### CALCUTTA.

In our issue of March, 1914, we reviewed the Report of the Armenian College and Academy in Calcutta, which has done so much towards the education of Armenian boys, mostly from Persia, many of whom are now merchant princes in India and the Far East. The Report for 1914-15 has just reached us, and it is a pleasure to allude again to the philanthropic task which the Members of the Institution have set themselves to perform.

The blighting effects of the war have cast their shadow over the whole world, and it is not surprising that the Report is less full of interesting topics than the one we reviewed last year. The Managers, however, stick to the subject of the year's scholastic doings, and bring out succinctly the necessities of the various standards applicable to the school, and discuss the all-absorbing topic of ways and means.

Sports, Volunteering and Boy Scouts are given their usual prominence, the annual College Sports being held on February 20th last, under the distinguished presidentship of the Hon. Mr. N. D. Beatson-Bell, I.C.S., C.I.E. The labours of Miss A. Apcar in training boys for the Church Choir are again justly appreciated. A noteworthy aspect of self-denial and patriotism deserves to be placed on record in connection with both Sports and College prizes. This is what the Managers say:—

"At the earnest request of the pupils no prizes were awarded to the winners, certificates of proficiency being awarded, the money from this source being voted for the relief of Armenian sufferers in the present War. A similar and very praiseworthy desire has been expressed for the College Prize Distribution, and in consequence certificates only are to be awarded to the prize-winners. This shows a true philanthropic spirit in the boys, and is worthy of our highest commendation."

With regard to the Armenian Relief Fund (Calcutta), we are pleased to see that it is steadily increasing. In our last issue we gave the contributions up to the 4th list that had been published, amounting in all to Rs. 33,945. We now give the three subsequent lists that have come to hand, bringing the gross total up to Rs. 38,403:—

5th List.—Nett proceeds from the Fancy Fete organised by the Ladies' Committee at the Armenian Club, Rs. 1,803-2; nett proceeds from the Conservatoire Concert held at 34, Park Street, Rs. 402; from Miss Agnes Arratoon and friends, including Rs. 50, from His Grace the Metropolitan of India, Rs. 100; Mr. G. S. Thorose (of Sirajgung), Rs. 50; collection at the Armenian Church of Calcutta on Easter Sunday, Rs. 165; the Armenian community of Asansol:—Mr. D. Mackertich, Rs. 3; Mr. J. P. Andrews, Rs. 2; Mr. C. Johannes, Rs. 3; Friends, Rs. 2; Mr. E. Nierses, Rs. 2; Mr. G. Alexander, Rs. 2; Mrs. M. C. Johannes, Rs. 2; Mr. D. Mackertich, Re. 1; Mr. P. Mackertich, Re. 1; Mr. Hyrapiet, Rs. 3. Grand total, Rs. 36,506.

6th List.—Amount previously acknowledged, Rs. 36,506; Mr. A. S. Apcar, Rs. 250; Mr. John Albert Nahapiet, Rs. 200; two little sisters, Rs. 100; Miss Doris MacJohn, Rs. 30; Mr. M. G. Martin, Rs. 20; Mrs. Mary Gregory, Rs. 20; A Friend, Rs. 6; "J. A.," Rs. 5; Friend, Rs. 5; Mrs. K. Hutchison, Rs. 5; A Friend, Rs. 5; A Friend, Rs. 5. The Armenian Community of Dhanbaid:—Mr. L. M. Simon, Rs. 10; Mr. A. L. Gregory, Rs. 10; Mr. G. Malcolm, Rs. 10; Mr. G. J. Abraham, Rs. 10; Mr. D. H. Anthony, Rs. 5; Mr. S. M. Simon, Rs. 3; Mr. G.



Mansoor, Rs. 5; Mr. M. Simon, Re. 1; Mr. I. M. Israelian, Rs. 11; Mr. S. S. MacJohn, Rs. 11; Mr. G. Carapiet, Rs. 3; Mr. H. G. Bagram, Rs. 3; A Friend, Rs. 2; Mr. J. J. Avetoom, Re. 1; Mr. G. S. Arakiel, Rs. 5; Economic Stores, Rs. 15; Mrs. G. Bagram, Rs. 2; Mrs. Tigranian, Rs. 5; Mrs. Thomasian, Rs. 3; Mrs. Simon, Rs. 2; Mrs. Carapiet, Rs. 5; Mrs. G. S. Arakiel, Rs. 5; and Mrs. S. Arakiel, Rs. 5. Total, Rs. 37,289.

7th List.—Amount previously acknowledged, Rs. 37,289; Mr. Mackertich John, Rs. 250; Mr. Joseph John, Rs. 150; Friends, Rs. 150; an Armenian family, Rs. 100; from Pathardihi—Mr. Haik Lucas, Rs. 10; Mr. M. John, Rs. 5; E. G. H., Rs. 5; Mr. Gregory George, Rs. 10; (from Jherria)—A Friend, Rs. 10; Mr. Babuny, Rs. 5; (from West Gopalichuck Colliery)—Mr. H. G. Carapiet, Rs. 5; Mr. G. G. Carapiet, Rs. 10; Mr. J. A. Jacob, Rs. 10; Mr. Fleischer, Rs. 5; Mrs. H. G. Carapiet, Rs. 5. The Armenian Community of Sijua, Rs. 384 as follows:—S. S., Rs. 10; Mr. H. Mangigal, Re. 1; Mr. M. J. Marcar, Rs. 10; Mr. C. Hyrapiet, Rs. 3; Mr. G. A. Phillipps, Rs. 45; Mr. A. M. Joseph, Rs. 10; Mr. A. A. Arathoon, Rs. 200; Mr. J. P. Akdul, Rs. 20; Mr. A. Madath, Rs. 5; Mr. A. Simmons, Rs. 5; A. N. A., Rs. 10; Mr. A. J. Avetoom, Rs. 5; Mr. Arathoon A. Phillipps, Rs. 50; P. J. P., Rs. 10. Grand total, Rs. 38,403.

All contributions to the above Fund are being received by Mr. A. Stephen, 2, Camac Street, Calcutta.

## "At Home"

OF THE

## Armenian United Association of London,

*Held at the Elysée Hall, Queen's Road, W., on Sunday,  
May 16th, 1915.*

Extreme pressure on our space prevented us publishing this report in our issue of last month, but the subject of the lecture delivered on this occasion by Mr. W. Llewelyn Williams, on *The New Birth of Russia*, was of such absorbing interest that even the delay of a month will not detract from the desire of our readers to have on record an abstract, however incomplete, of what he said on the occasion. The Hall was crowded, and the President introduced the lecturer with a few well-chosen words. The following is the gist of Mr. Williams' lecture:—

"I want it to be understood that when I use the phrase 'the new birth of Russia,' it is not in the nature of a prophecy, but the affirmation of a fact. In order to prevent objections being taken, I will also state that I do not mean the sanctification of Russia—I mean simply her regeneration.

"When speaking about Russia, I had better say at the outset that I find the average Briton finds it very difficult to accept the question of regeneration as a fact. The ideas entertained about Russia are the popular ones—first, that Russia is vast; and secondly, that Russians are barbarians. The first, I may tell you, is right; the other is wrong.

"That Russia is vast, I will show by statistics. The Russian Empire covers 8,660,000 square miles of territory—one-sixteenth part of the entire surface of the earth. The population too is vast, numbering 173½ millions in 1904, and the rate of increase which was then 43 per thousand, had mounted to 48 per thousand in 1910. This number is about one-twelfth of the entire population of the globe. Let me take, for comparison, the case of Germany; and there is no treason in doing this. In that country the rate of increase was 43 per thousand in 1904, and in 1910 the rate had dropped to 29·8 per thousand; while in Great Britain the rate of increase was 23·8 per thousand, or half that of Russia. In another generation the population of the latter country will be about 250 millions. There are, moreover, over one hundred separate languages spoken in Russia.

"Then we are told that Russia is barbaric. I happen to be one who was born in the provinces, and now for my sins I dwell in London. Now to the average cockney, every one so born is a barbarian. The ancient Romans called all outside their own nation pagans. And as about 28½ millions in these islands dwell in urban centres, the rest of the people are barbarians.

"Let us enquire into the traditional policy of this empire of ours. We have considered Russia a traditional enemy, and we have been antagonistic to her. But since when? We were in alliance with her a hundred years ago in the Napoleonic wars and many years after. How did it come about that we drew the sword against her and on behalf of Turkey? Why did we fight her in 1853-54, and why did we take the side of Turkey in 1877? Why did the English put all their weight on the side of the Treaty of Berlin and throw over the Treaty of San Stefano? And was it not by that act that the Armenians were left nominally to the control of Europe, but really to the brutalities of the Turks? Why did we lose our heads over the North-Western frontier of India? It is but a little more than half a century that we have discovered Russia to be barbarian.

"Let us not err by saying it was all due to change of parties. British Foreign policy is continuous, and the party that comes in adopts the policy of the out-going party—so it is not a party question. We profoundly believed that Russia's motive was to aggrandise herself at our expense, and it is refreshing to see Lord Salisbury, with his usual candour, confessing later that we had put our money on the wrong horse. But that view about Russia still lingers in many minds, and people will tell you that our next great war will be with that country. It is this political disease, Russophobia, that I have made it my business to destroy. Mr. Stead was always an honest friend of Russia and no one could argue him out of that standpoint; it was his



instinctive justice that made him side with Russia, and how glad he would have been to see this day. He held, too, in spite of all opposition, to the conviction that *our real enemy was Germany*.

"What is the attitude of the average Liberal, if he were a Free Churchman like myself? He is a pacifist, he loves liberty, he hates tyranny and he hates bureaucracy. That the Russia of a decade ago was steeped in the latter there is no gainsaying, but, mark me, we have been seeing a New Russia, a risen Russia! In the words of the prophecy of Ezekiel, 'Can these dead bones live?' Indeed they can, and we shall see.

"Let us look back on the most important events of the early years of this century. The Russo-Japanese war was most disastrous and humiliating to Russia, but one good came of it—it revealed the widespread corruption, the gross incapacity of the ruling classes. How costly that war was no one can say, as there was no Chancellor such as ours who could be asked; it was costly in human lives, 388,000 having fallen; and the domestic troubles that arose after it were even worse. The entire population was in a ferment, anarchy ruled, industrial progress was at a standstill; the peasantry, awakened from their slumber, went about in bands, pillaging and burning. What did the autocracy do? To curb this violence there were thousands of arrests, there were deaths by the thousand. Violence was met by violence, and scenes were enacted that stagger humanity. High officials were assassinated; there was a counter revolution at Odessa, and more people were put to death in that one city than suffered through the French Revolution. And Russia in 1904 saw for the first time the great masses of the people awake—'it was the reign of reaction and repression,' as one great authority described the contrast.

"The events in Bosnia in 1904 found Russia weak and unable to help the smaller Slav nations, but how do we find her in 1914? We find her compact, the people rallying round their Emperor, and determined to bring this war of aggression to a successful end. And what brought about this change? It was the conversion of the Government through fear. Though the Czar absolutely refused even moderate reforms in 1904, he was convinced between 1904 and 1905 that without reforms the dynasty itself must disappear. Reform had become inevitable, and one day there was enacted in Petrograd a dramatic scene. A group of officials awaiting their Czar in the Council Chamber—on the table lay a document—all were pale and silent. When the doors were thrown open, the Emperor entered and abruptly halted on the threshold. The moment was tense and some even wept, others turned their backs on the fateful document. The Emperor Nicholas strode forward, took up the pen and signed—one word—and Russia passed from political death to political life—Russia was born again!

"It is impossible to estimate the consequences of that act. The Duma was constituted, freedom of conscience was granted to the Russian people, freedom of speech, freedom of association—before there could be no trade unions, and no town could take joint action.

The first two Dumas were stormy and had a short existence, as 90 millions of people were unequally represented—how could it be otherwise? But later Dumas prove that constitutional government has come to stay in Russia. The financial position was found to be on the verge of bankruptcy, but the revenue has steadily increased and State railways have multiplied. From an empty treasury she has amassed the largest gold reserve in Europe.

"What has been the effect on the national life? It has been extraordinary—as the advent of spring melts their ice-bound rivers and they flow down to the sea, so it is with the frozen life of Old Russia. Take education—all education was considered a danger to the State, now it is open to both sexes. In 1906 they began to vote a credit for educational purposes; in 1914, and in war time, they declared there must be no drop in educational expenditure, and a sum of three millions which had been cut down was immediately restored. At the present time there is being brought forward a scheme of land reforms, and all State lands are being handed over to the landless peasantry. What a harvest there will be!

"Five thousand miles of railways a year is the policy of the Duma. Give them ten years and what shall we see? A regenerated Russia—the evidences of this are to be seen in what is the first consideration, the moral regeneration of the country, and the status of women. The ban on *vodka* by edict, which meant a sacrifice of 84 millions of money by the exchequer, stands out pre-eminent. The Czar went personally to investigate in the homes of the people, and was horrified to find the degradation brought about by this drink. His letter to the Duma, pressing for its abolition, ended with the words—'It is not meet that the welfare of the Exchequer should be dependent on the moral death of my people.' And the Duma readily gave its legal sanction for prohibition. Then again the status of women is high in Russia. There are fifty universities for women, women medical students number about 5,000, and in most professions, especially the medical, the woman holds the same standing as the man.

"With regard to the economic position of Russia, her mineral wealth is enormous, and the coal-fields alone, when exploited, will out-do the coal-fields of England. Up to the present they have been worked only by a few Germans. Her manufactories were also owned and worked mainly by Germans and Englishmen; but all the German property since the commencement of the war had been confiscated, apparently on the principle that while war lasts the force of the ten commandments is held under suspension. A very high authority on commerce has asserted that 'Russia, in the future, will have the greatest trade in the world.'

"All this is a good record, and in the stirred soul of the Russian people there is a revolt, not against religion, but against unreality in religion, and this is shown in the words that the Grand Duke Constantine puts into the mouth of one of his characters in his *Passion*



Play called *The King of the Jews*, wherein the sacred person does not appear :—

'Man's dry lore doth reign  
Among us—supersedes  
All Holy Writ—and creeds  
Which God hath given are vain.  
'Neath ceremony's Rod  
Our faith doth slumber on,  
And the Synedrion  
Usurps the place of God.'

"Kropotkin says a new birth of Russia is not a metaphor or a prophecy, but a fact—years of disturbance will pass and Russia will come out of it a new nation, averse to bloodshed, averse to war. For my part, I would rather have an alliance with a State emerging from the darkness and with its face towards the light of God than I would with a State which declares Might is Right, and the Ethics of the Man of Nazareth only to be held in contempt and to be openly discarded."

The above lecture was received at its conclusion with well-merited applause, and the President reflected the feelings of the audience in his words of thanks to the lecturer, pointing out to what extent Armenians were indebted to Russia for her strong advocacy of their cause, which was now patent to all the world through the publication of the *Orange Book*. The gratitude of the Armenians was no less apparent from their efforts to place all their manhood at the disposal of the Russian forces in their fight for freedom. He hoped the outcome would be equally satisfactory, and that Armenia would receive the full support of the Powers towards that emancipation which is her right to expect, and emerge from this war of hatred among nations a self-governing people, capable of drawing within her influence for progress the backward nations of Western Asia, and so conferring on the world a lasting benefit.

Questions affecting certain points in the lecture were asked by Miss Scatterd, Mr. Threadgold and others, which the lecturer answered. Tea and conversation brought the very instructive meeting to its termination.

It was not many days after his lecture that Mr. Llewelyn Williams addressed the following letter to *The Observer*, appearing in the issue of that paper of May 30th :—

#### THE SORROWS OF ARMENIA.

SIR,—Your evident and unfeigned sympathy with the struggling and oppressed minor nationalities encourages me to make an appeal through your powerful paper on behalf of Armenia. All the horrors of the last forty years seem to be reaching an awful climax in the unspeakable deeds wrought by the Turkish forces, regular and irregular, during the last few weeks. "All the inhabitants of 100 villages assassinated" came through in a message during the last few days.

So terrible have been the events that at length the British Government has sternly informed the Turkish Government that it will hold the members individually and collectively responsible for any atrocities in the district immediately affected.

That is all to the good. But the average reader does not comprehend the incalculable mass of misery, suffering, woe endured by the wretched inhabitants who, deprived of arms and unprotected by any effective authority, are at the mercy of those who have systematically robbed, outraged, massacred them for the last forty years. They are on the rack again, and their rackers are not only the Turks and Kurds, but those also who spurred them on to a so-called Holy War, well knowing what it would mean to the defenceless Christian races in Turkey. History will regard that act of the Central Empires as one of the worst of all their offences against civilisation and humanity.

Why has this latest outburst against the Armenians in the Caucasus taken place? For perfectly obvious reasons. The Armenians have sprung to arms against their ancient enemy and oppressor the Turk! They are crowding into the Russian armies. They have always done so. Luigi Villari in his moving story, "Fire and Sword in the Caucasus," says (p. 146): "It is indeed safe to say that but for the Armenians Russia would never have conquered the Caucasus." At the present moment 80 per cent. of the Russian forces which have just captured Van, the ancient capital of the old Armenian kingdom, are Armenians. That is their crime. Because they have dared to take their stand with the only Power which has ever raised a finger or moved a regiment to improve their conditions or lighten the heavy hand of oppression, they are at this moment undergoing all the tortures which roused Gladstone and Europe in the last decade of the nineteenth century. They are victims of their efforts and sacrifices to do their "bit" in this great struggle for law and liberty against brute force and tyranny, and for the right of small nationalities to be free and advance in the road to progress in their own way. They are sustained and inspired by their unshakeable faith in the regeneration of their nation and the civilising role they are destined to play in the Nearer East. That faith is stronger to-day, as is the determination to realise it, than they have been for centuries.

Meanwhile practical proofs of British sympathy can be abundantly afforded by British support of the Armenian Red Cross Fund. The need is unspeakably great and urgent; Armenians are nobly doing their duty. They look confidently, therefore, for some crumbs which fall from the table of British philanthropy and patriotism for their brave compatriots who are fighting a desperate battle for the very causes which have moved Britons all the world over to reach heights of service, sacrifice and suffering. Miss Robinson, 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, W., will gladly receive and acknowledge any gifts of money or suitable goods. Yours faithfully,

W. LLEWELYN WILLIAMS.

8, St. George's Mansions, S.W.

May 28th, 1915.



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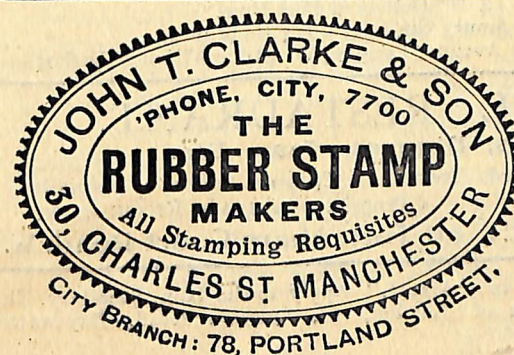
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